



160 St. Ronan Street, New Haven, CT 06511-2390 (203) 865-0587 FAX (203) 865-4997

Connecticut State Medical Society Testimony in Support of
Senate Bill 228 An Act Concerning A personal Income Tax Deduction for Individuals Who Receive All
Health Screenings As Recommended By the American Medical Association
Public Health Committee
February 27, 2009

Senator Harris, Representative Ritter and Members of the Public Health Committee, on behalf of the more than 7,000 members of the Connecticut State Medical Society thank you for the opportunity to present this testimony to you today in support of Senate Bill 228 An Act Concerning A Personal Income Tax Deduction for Individuals Who Receive All Health Screenings As Recommended by the American Medical Association. Our support for this legislation is consistent with our continued efforts to promote wellness and healthy lifestyles in order to increase the quality of life for Connecticut and ultimately realize cost savings within the healthcare system.

The CSMS supports efforts to encourage the development of policies and mechanisms to assure the continuity, coordination and continuous availability of patient care, including preventive care and early-detection screening services, provided that the services are cost and quality effective. CSMS believes that this bill provides positive financial incentives through tax deductions for such health screenings and related services. CSMS also appreciates this bill's recognition of the American Medical Association's involvement in evaluating or identifying screening tests and recommendations. We would further encourage the committee to consider including those recommendations of national medical specialty societies, including, but not limited to, the American Academy of Pediatrics, American Academy of Family Physicians, American College Cardiology. Furthermore, the CSMS would consider a refundable tax credit that is inversely related to income instead of a tax deduction in order to more effectively encourage those individuals who may have less income to spend on health care services to seek preventive services and screenings.

Please support SB 228